

221st BSB – Wiesbaden, Wackernheim, Dexheim



Not sure he wants to ride the horse, Gabriel Bate looks to his parents for help. A new attraction at this year's Kinderfest, two horses were provided by Kathy Wissel, a School-Age Services employee and 4-H sponsor.



Family Child Care director Eidin Hernly shows youths how to make clay bowls on a pottery wheel.



Kathy Cutforth, Army Family Team Building coordinator, paints a little one's face at the Child and Youth Services Kinderfest.

Children show off at Kinderfest

**Story and photos by
Kelly Deichert**
Special to the Herald Union

The smell of hamburgers, sounds of laughter and a bright blue sky drew people to Kinderfest 2005 at Wiesbaden American Middle School April 23.

As part of the annual Month of the Military Child celebration, 221st Base Support Battalion Child and Youth Services hosted the event which attracted hundreds of family members.

Youths ranging from toddlers to teens enjoyed annual favorites such as face painting and crafts. New features included pottery and horseback riding.

Eidin Hernly, Family Child Care director, brought her pottery wheel and helped about 40 youths make small pots. Having made pottery for 30 years, Hernly said she believes working with clay and experience the process is good for children.

Children waited patiently in line for the new event, a horse-

backride around the playground.

Kathy Wissel, an employee with School-Age Services, and a 4-H sponsor who teaches children how to care for horse, brought two horses.

Students from CYS' Schools of Knowledge, Inspiration, Education and Skills entertained the crowd with hip-hop dances, dramatic readings, ballet and tae kwon do.

"Performers, parents and other guests were all smiles," said Tracy Miller, SKIES man-

ager. "The crowd went crazy."

Miller was proud of the students, who enjoyed showing off their new talents for friends and family. "We give every child a chance to be a star," she said.

The free event also included food. More than 800 bottles of water, 600 hot dogs and 600 hamburgers were passed out throughout the day, according to Pat Hoban, Kinderfest coordinator.

Hoban's children, Patrick, 12, and Loreley, 16, were on hand to monitor their own animals at the petting zoo. The children enjoyed holding the two rabbits and guinea pigs and watching the chickens and goats eat.

Dressed as the Cat in the Hat, Kimberly King from Wiesbaden Army Airfield Library helped children make a book about themselves and handed out free videos and bookmarks.

Children left Kinderfest with lots of goodies, including yellow hats from the airfield Fire Department, footballs courtesy of the DARE program, Beanie Babies from the USO and cookies they decorated themselves.

DoDDS-E musicians pack Kurhaus

Students perform concert in Honors Music Festival

Story and photos by
Alex Steele
Special to the Herald Union

The Department of Defense Dependents Schools-Europe Honors Band and Chorus Concert packed the Wiesbaden Kurhaus for a performance of mostly American music April 21.

The concert was held on the last day of the annual DoDDS-E Honors Music Festival which brought 80 of the best high school vocalists and 60 instrumentalists from across Europe to Oberwesel for three days of rehearsal and instruction, culminating in the gala performance.

Mormon Tabernacle Choir director, Dr. Craig Jessop, traveled to Germany from Utah to lead the choral instruction and performance. Jessop said he was thrilled to be asked to lead the choir. He is no stranger to the military, having served as commander of the U.S. Air Force Europe Band in Ramstein from 1987-1991. "It's like I've come home," he said.

The festival drew together the creme de la creme of DoDDS-E high school musicians, and Jessop expressed his admiration for the honors students and their passion for music. "The basics of music are still used whether working with teenagers or adults. The adults have had more experience, but intellectually these kids are dynamite," he said.

Jessop is familiar with working with singers of all ages. He began singing himself when he was 5 years old, has sung in church choirs since age 10, and sang with the Mormon Tabernacle Choir while in college. He has also conducted various choirs for decades.

Jessop was invited to teach and conduct at the festival by DoDDS-E visual and performing arts coordinator Eric Measells. The choice of choral material to be studied and performed was left solely up to him, he said. "I specifically chose a variety of songs to expose the students to a wide range of cultures," said Jessop.

Among the works selected was a Franz Biebl arrangement of "Ave Maria," dedicated to Pope Benedict XVI and the late Pope John Paul II, said Jessop. The tribute, sung in Latin, featured the soprano section echoing from the balcony and left few dry eyes in the hall.

The final choral piece on the program was "Cindy," an arrangement of a tradi-



Mormon Tabernacle Choir director, Dr. Craig Jessop, conducts a rehearsal with Department of Defense Dependents Schools-Europe music students before an honors concert held at the Wiesbaden Kurhaus.

tional song that revved the audience up for the second half of the program, a selection of instrumental performances under the direction of Prof. Anthony Maiello of George Mason University.

After six American-style tributes from the band, the choir joined them on stage for the finale, "Come Thou Font of Every Blessing." As the final notes gave way to silence, the audience rose to offer a stand-

ing ovation to the group.

After the concert Jessop shared some of his memories as a choir director. He recalled the time around the fall of the Berlin Wall 1989 when he and the USAFE Band were sent to the former east as a goodwill gesture. In Pilzen, Czechoslovakia, they were given a thunderous welcome. "It was like the biggest Fourth of July celebration. We were treated like rock stars," said Jessop, recalling the streets lined with Czech and American flags as the band entered the city.

Jessop became director of the Mormon Tabernacle Choir in 1999. He said he is both excited to continue to lead the choir while at the same time recognizing the magnitude of the calling. "It's paralyzing to think of the history of the choir. You just have to think of it as one performance at a time, take it one step at a time."

Jessop said he considered it an honor and privilege to have been so involved with music throughout his life. "I've been blessed with more than my share of once-in-a-lifetime opportunities," he said.



The creme de la creme of DoDDS-E high school musicians end their annual Honors Music Festival with a grand performance at the Wiesbaden Kurhaus.



Photo by Cassandra Kardeke

Youths rehearse for 'Wiz of the West'

A group of "tarantulas" rehearse on stage in the Wiesbaden Middle School gym for the Missoula Children's Theater production of "The Wiz of the West" April 26. Two MCT staff selected 50 out of 80 youths who auditioned April 25 for the five-day crash course of putting together a theater production. Rehearsing after school for only five days the youth then held two performances at the Middle School April 30 for the Wiesbaden community.

Community-wide yard sales May 14

Military housing areas in Wiesbaden and Dexheim will hold community-wide yard sales May 14 from 7 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Residents and barracks Soldiers in Dexheim may set up on the parade field or the large playground next to the elementary school/Army Community Service. Wiesbaden residents may sell from their front or backyards and grassy areas next to side-

walks. Off-post residents and barracks Soldiers may set up items in any grassy common area or along the sidewalks in Hainerberg Housing or the authorized set-up point in Dexheim.

Do not set up in any parking lot, on sidewalks or on roads. Residents living in Mainz-Kastel or Wiesbaden Army Airfield housing may also set up in the Hainerberg Housing area.

Spring cleanup May 23-26

The 221st Base Support Battalion community-wide cleanup will be May 23-26. All housing areas will be cleaned May 24. Lawn mowers, trimmers, hedgers and

other necessary lawn care items are available at the Self-Help Store at Mississippistrasse 3. For more information contact your local building or village coordinator.

Youth sleuths needed to solve mystery

By Kelly Deichert
Special to the Herald Union

Murder, jealousy and intrigue await young detectives at the 221st Base Support Battalion Libraries' mystery nights. The staff brings the game of Clue to life, complete with crime scenes where participants look for clues.

Sleuths in sixth through ninth grades are invited to find out who would want to harm the star of the high school soccer team in the next teen mystery night, "Death Gets a Red

Card," May 20, from 6-8 p.m. at the Wiesbaden Army Airfield Library, Building 1029N. Free tickets are available at all 221st BSB libraries.

David Schaffter, Wiesbaden librarian, said he is proud to offer a recreational activity that challenges young minds.

"The games are built around a system of evidence that encourages critical thinking and pattern recognition," he said.

During the January teen mystery night, nine girls solved the crime of "Rock and Roll

Over Dead." They divided into two teams to find out who killed fictional music librarian Melinda Carey.

Each detective received a booklet featuring a list of suspects, background information and police reports. They had the opportunity to explore three scenes: the room where the body was found, Carey's office and the police investigator's desk. Each scene featured clues, including photos, graphs, CDs, books and police reports.

Detectives rummaged through boxes, drawers and notes looking for hidden information.

The girls were enthusiastic about the program. The ones who had been to previous mystery nights showed the newcomers the ropes. They

meticulously looked through their booklets and discussed the clues like professionals.

Library volunteer Trisha Covarrubias led the girls through the background on the crime. She interjected news releases into the discussion, keeping the girls informed of the latest developments. Covarrubias challenged the girls to solve the crime, since no one correctly identified the killer at the previous event.

She stressed that there are no winners or losers, since the focus was on a team effort. At the end of the event, the girls presented their evidence and explained why they thought a specific suspect was the murderer. Most of the girls were right, but all presented con-

vincing explanations.

Schaffter said this program helps teens learn teamwork and develop social skills. They get to spend a Friday night among friends and find new ones.

"We've already seen natural leaders finding their role in organizing their team,

and the less assertive learning how to contribute within their own comfort zone," he said.

Teen mystery nights engage an under-served demographic, said Schaffter.

"The library is focusing new efforts on building a teen program, from adding graphic novels to the collection to hosting events just for them."

"Of course we hope that involvement will lead participants to an interest in reading mystery novels, for which the library is an excellent resource," said Joyce Green, community librarian.

For information on the libraries' mystery nights and other events, call the Wiesbaden Army Airfield Library at mil 337-1740 or civ (0611) 705-1740.



221st BSB – Wiesbaden, Wackernheim, Dexheim

Community news notes

Holiday in Spain

Team 221st Outdoor Recreation offers a five-day trip to Lloret de Mar, Spain, May 26-30. Cost is \$239 for adults/\$179 for children and includes round-trip transportation, two overnights in a hotel with breakfast, lunch and dinner. For more information or to sign up call mil 337-5760 or civ (0611) 705-5760.

Newlywed game

The Wiesbaden Community Activity Center hosts "The Not-So-Newlywed Game" at 8 p.m. May 14. Cost is \$2 per adult. Couples must have been married for at least a year. Cost is \$2 per adult, \$1 for children (13-17 years old). To sign up or for more information call mil 337-5750 or civ (0611) 705-5750.

Golf tournament

Sign up by May 27 for the 221st Base Support Battalion Golf Tournament at Rheinblick Golf Course June 3. Cost is \$30 per person which includes green fees, carts, rental clubs, lunch and prizes. Call mil 337-1580 or civ (0611) 705-1580 for more information.

Spring fun run

Wiesbaden American Middle School hosts a community-wide Spring Fun Run May 12 at 3:30 p.m. Students from Darmstadt, Heidelberg, Mannheim, Rhein Main and Hanau middle schools are participating, and the event is free for all. Call mil 337-6251 or civ (0611) 705-6251 for more information.

Clinic hours

To better serve the community the Wiesbaden Army Airfield Health Clinic is now open on training holidays from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. and every Thursday except for the first one of the month. The pharmacy, laboratory, medical records, Tricare and X-ray sections are also open during the lunch hours.

Bowling specials

Wear grey on National Grey Day May 26 at the Dexheim Bowling Center and enjoy a two-

for-one special from 5-8 p.m. Shoes are free. Women can compete in the eight-pin, no-tap tournament May 26 at the Wiesbaden Bowling Center. For more information call mil 337-5654 or civ (0611) 705-5654, Dexheim at civ (06133) 69 743.

BOSS meetings

Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers meets the first and third Wednesday of each month at 2 p.m. at the BOSS Center, Building 1052 at Wiesbaden Army Airfield.

Scuba classes

Learn how to scuba dive with Wiesbaden's Outdoor Recreation May 12 from 5-8 p.m. Expand your horizons in scuba diving and take it to the next level — advanced open water. Learn about night diving, underwater navigation and rescue diving from 6-10 p.m. May 20-23. Take the PADI Rescue Diver Scuba Diving Course and improve on your first-aid skills and diving certification during this course too. Call Wiesbaden ODR at mil 337-5760, civ (0611) 705-5760 or Dexheim ODR at mil 334-5578, civ (06133) 69 578 for more information.

Children's theater

The Amelia Earhart Playhouse offers a Children's Theater workshop for youths age 8-14 June 20 through July 31. Classes are held Monday through Friday, 12:30-4:30 p.m. Cost is \$150 per student. Seats are limited. To sign up call mil 336-2473 or civ (0611) 816-2473.

Warrant officers sought

The Wiesbaden Chapter of the U.S. Army Warrant Officer Association holds its monthly membership meeting May 13 from 7:30-9 a.m. at the Wiesbaden Army Airfield Dining Facility. All warrant officers are invited to attend. For more information call mil 337-4469 or send an email to bryan.green@1ad.army.mil.

AFTB classes

Army Family Team Building hosts Level Three Leadership and Management training May 16-17 and 19 at Army



Photo by Spc. Mary E. Ferguson

On the road again

Soldiers from the 27th Transportation Battalion's 635th Movement Regulating Detachment load their duffel bags onto a bus at the battalion's headquarters at Wiesbaden Army Airfield, just moments before departing on their long journey to Iraq. The 3rd Corps Support Command unit provides movement control and transportation services to V Corps and other units within their area of operation and will provide similar support while deployed.

Community Service, Building 7790 in Hainerberg Housing, from 8:45 a.m. to 2 p.m. Instructor training will be held at the Dexheim ACS May 14 and 21 from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Level One and Two Marathon training will be held at ACS in Hainerberg Housing June 6-9 focusing on an introduction to Army life and Coping Skills and Leadership. Learn more about AFTB and classes by calling mil 337-5034, mil 335-5487 or civ (0611) 705-5034.

Bust-a-Ball open

The Bust-a-Ball paintball field in Dexheim is now open every Saturday from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. through September. Bring your own gear or sign up for equipment rental onsite. No outside paint is allowed. Call mil 334-5818, civ (06133) 69 818 or

mil 337-5760, civ (0611) 705-5760 for more information.

Over-30 tourney

Hit the courts with your friends and compete in the Over-30 Basketball Tournament from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. June 4-5 at the Tony Bass Fitness Center. Registration is \$250 for a 10-man team. First 10 teams to register get \$100 discount. Register by May 27 at mil 337-5541 or civ (0611) 705-5541.

Blood drive

The European Regional Medical Center sponsors a blood drive May 13 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Tony Bass Fitness Center.

Birthday celebration

Celebrate the 230th birthday of the U.S. Army at the Kastel Club June 14 from 6 p.m. to

midnight. Wear Army green and enjoy plenty of free food and cake. For more information call mil 334-2903 or civ (06134) 604-903.

FRG input

Team 221st is seeking input from experienced Family Readiness Group leaders and community volunteers, both current and past, to compile a guide from the trenches of what works to make FRGs as useful and fun as possible. Suggestions such as, "make it fun," "be inclusive" and "stop rumors" are all great but lack on the specifics. Help the experts help you get the most out of your FRG. Call mil 337-5034/5754 or civ (0611) 705-5034/5754.

Wunderbar tours

Join Army Family Team Building for weekly bus tours and explore the things to do and places to go around Wiesbaden and Mainz. The staff of volunteers will show you how to make the most of local resources, complete with maps and info guides. Tours are from 4-6:30 p.m. starting at the Wiesbaden Outdoor Recreation Office, Building 1046 at Wiesbaden Army Airfield and cost \$10 for adults, \$7.50 for children. Bring euros for snacks and souvenirs. Visit parks, a petting zoo, playground and family activities on the Family Tour June 2, July 14 and Aug. 4; explore sports fields, hiking and biking spots and swimming pools with the Teens and Tweens Tour June 9, July 21 and Aug. 11; visit nightclubs, ethnic restaurants, flea markets, cinema and museums on the Adult Tour June 16, July 28 and Aug. 18; learn the history and tour some of Wiesbaden's world-famous spas on the Spa Etiquette Tour June 23. For more information or to sign up for a tour call mil 337-5034/5754 or civ (0611) 705-5034/5754.

Camp registration

Register your child now for Child and Youth Services Summer Camp beginning June 20. Parents can enroll their child for the entire program or in two-week increments. For more information call mil 337-6724 or civ (0611) 705-6724.

222nd BSB – Baumholder, Neubrücke, Strassburg

Yard sale scheduled

The semi-annual post yard sale will be held May 14 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. in all of Baumholder's housing areas. Sales are open to U.S. identification card holders only and all property must be removed by 6 p.m. For more information call the 222nd Base Support Battalion adjutant's office at mil 485-6080 or 7055.

Chapel news

St. Michael's Chapel located at Building 8249 on Smith Barracks offers the following activities:

- Catholic potluck supper, Fridays until May 13, 5 p.m.

- Catholic Women of the Chapel meet, Fridays, 10 a.m. to noon

The following events are offered at the Chapel Activities Center, Building 8217:

- Catholic History Class, Thursdays, 5 p.m.

- Protestant Women of the Chapel meet, Mondays, 6-8 p.m., Wednesdays, 10 a.m. to noon.

- Protestant Youth of the Chapel, sixth to eighth grade, meet, Tuesdays, 5-6:45 p.m.; ninth to 12th grade youth meet 7-9 p.m.

Host nation events

The following events are scheduled in the Baumholder and surrounding communities:

Happenings



Photo by Ignacio "Iggy" Rubalcava

Postal operations

Staff Sgt. Robert D. McCullum, platoon sergeant for 2nd Platoon, explains how the mail flows through the new Army Post Office. The APO moved to its new site in mid March and held off on its dedication ceremony until April 28 so that employees could work out the kinks of operating in a new facility.

- May 12, Whitsun market at St. Wendel
- May 14-15, Volksmarch at Baumholder, Brühlhalle, 7 a.m. to 2 p.m.
- May 15-16, Children and family fest at Bostalsee
- May 17, Yale Alley Cats concert, Baumholder Brühlhalle, 7 p.m.
- May 21, 22, Volksmarch at Herschweiler-Petersheim

- May 21, Baumholder live music pub crawl

- May 22, Maibowlenfest, downtown Baumholder

- May 27 to June 6, Kaiserslautern May Market

- May 26-29, horse riding and jumping competition in Kusel

- May 28, NATO Music Festival, Kaiserslautern, Fritz-Walter-Stadion, 7:30 p.m.

- June 3-5, Idar-Oberstein Jazz Days at Idar

- June 4, 18, flea markets at Metz, France

- June 4, Old City Fest at Meisenheim

- June 6, Market at Kirm, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

- June 10-12, Hutmacherfest at Kusel

- June 12, Flea market, Idar-Oberstein, Vollmersbachstrasse

- June 18, Mixery Castle, Thallichtenberg

- June 18-19, Fisher Fest, Baumholder Lake

- June 24, Lindenfest at Baumholder, 6 p.m.

- June 24-28, Spiessbraten fest at Idar-Oberstein.

BCSC luncheon

The Baumholder Commu-

nity Spouses Club holds its next members only luncheon at 11:30 a.m. May 18 at the Wagon Wheel Theater.

Manager needed

The Baumholder Community Spouses Club Thrift Shop has a manager's position open. Interested persons may drop off their resume at the Thrift Shop or email it to sabine.hall@us.army.mil. For more information call mil 485-6653.

Education update

An eArmyu briefing is offered every Thursday at the Education Center in Building 8332. Call mil 485-7557 for details and time.

Term five college and adult education courses are offered June 6 to July 29.

Volksmarch set

A volksmarch is scheduled for May 14, 15 in Baumholder. The Baumholder Bahn-brechers Volksmarching Club is sponsoring the march which starts and ends at the Brühlhalle in Baumholder. Start times for both days are 7 a.m. to 2 p.m. and participants must finish by 5 p.m. on both days. Distances include six, 10 and 20 kilometer marches.

Teacher Day

National Teacher Day, a day for honoring teachers and recognizing the lasting contributions they make was observed May 3.

This year's theme was "Thank a teacher for making public schools great."

The origins of Teacher Day are murky. Around 1944 Arkansas teacher Mattye Whyte Woodbridge began corresponding with political and education leaders about the need for a national day to honor teachers. Woodbridge wrote to Eleanor Roosevelt who in 1953 persuaded the 81st Congress to proclaim a National Teacher Day.

Go somewhere with Outdoor Recreation

Outdoor Recreation offers the following trips and activities in May:

- May 7, Six Flags Holland
- May 7, evening boat cruise on the Mosel

- May 12, sea kayaking, See *Happenings* on page 11



Alley Cats perform in Baumholder

The renowned all-male a-cappella singing group, the Yale Alley Cats, perform at 7 p.m., May 17 at the Brühlhalle in Baumholder. Tickets are €6 in advance, €8 at the door. Discount student tickets are €3. Advance tickets are available at the city administration office, bookstore Grimm, bookstore Edinger and at the Esso gas station in Baumholder. For more information on how to obtain tickets for the local performance May 17 call the 222nd Base Support Battalion Public Affairs Office at mil 485-1600.

OIF Gallery opens at 1st AD museum

By Ignacio "Iggy" Rubalcava

222nd Base Support Battalion
Public Affairs Office

Soldiers and civilian guests huddled under a canopy in front of the 1st Armored Division Museum to avoid a downpour April 20. They came to witness the dedication of the Operation Iraqi Freedom Gallery and re-dedication of the historical vehicle park.

About 100 German and American guests and Soldiers listened as Maj. Gen. Martin E. Dempsey, 1st Armored Division commander, explained that the opening of the new gallery was an initiative that began while 1st AD was in Iraq.

"It's really the culmination of an effort that began while we were downrange last year and decided that we needed to make some changes in the administration of the museum and try at the same time to put the pieces in place to capture the history we were making," said Dempsey.

The long and distinguished history of 1st AD is well documented in the 1st AD museum, but last year a new chapter was written and it needed to be captured for all to remember the deeds of the Soldiers who participated in Operation Iraqi Freedom. "This particular chapter is our chapter. This is

your part of the 1st Armored Division's history," Dempsey told the Soldiers who had gathered for the dedication.

The new gallery is now open, but there is still work to be done. Several historical artifacts are not on display because they have not arrived. "There's a rather daunting bureaucracy to get historical artifacts out of theater and into the museum where they belong, but we haven't given up that fight," said Dempsey.

In dedicating the new gallery, Dempsey had much praise for the museum's driving force. "Steve Ruhnke, the museum curator, has done a marvelous job of reinvigorating the museum and opening up this new chapter. And of course we also know that at some point in the future, he will have to pick up this museum and move it someplace. That's a pretty daunting task in itself," said Dempsey.

Sgt. Ernesto Victor, Battery C, 4th Battalion, 27th Field Artillery Regiment, assisted Dempsey with the unveiling and dedication of the vehicle park. Victor was a member of Cobra Battery, for whom the park was dedicated.

"We chose to name it for Cobra Battery. Many of you will absolutely vividly remember that on April 29 of last year, eight Soldiers from Co-



Photo by Ignacio "Iggy" Rubalcava

Sgt. Ernesto Victor (left) Battery C, 4-27th Field Artillery, assists Maj. Gen. Martin E. Dempsey, 1st Armored Division commander, unveil the plaque for Cobra Park.

bra Battery, 4-27th Field Artillery were killed in action when a suicide bomber came upon them when they were doing their duty, guarding the flank of a group of vehicles (Task Force Iron Claw) that were clearing the road ahead. Cobra Battery was providing security for that operation and

those eight Soldiers died doing exactly what they were supposed to do, which was protecting Task Force Iron Claw from those kind of attacks and they gave their lives for that. We will now name the vehicle park Cobra Park in honor of those Soldiers," said Dempsey.

Victor was wounded dur-

ing that action and received a Purple Heart.

Before officially opening the gallery, Dempsey told the Soldiers, "I encourage you to take a look at this chapter which you actually wrote and then go about the business of continuing to write the next chapter as that challenge comes to us."

Continued from page 10
Bosen Lake

●May 12, Keukenhof Tulip Garden, The Netherlands

●May 15, Legoland Germany.

Call Outdoor Recreation for detailed departure and pricing information at mil 485-7182. Outdoor Recreation is open Mondays, Thursdays and Fridays from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m.; Saturdays, Sundays and holidays, noon to 5 p.m.

Island Dancers

The Island Dancers bring some Asian Pacific flare to Baumholder with a performance May 20 from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Wagon Wheel Theater.

The dance group comes to

Baumholder to help the community observe Asian Pacific Heritage Month.

Baumholder's Equal Opportunity advisers seek volunteers to assist with this event.

They will provide the ingredients for anyone who can cook traditional Asian dishes. To volunteer your services call Sgt. 1st Class Julien Hayden at mil 485-6510.

Summer camps

Children of deployed service members will have the opportunity to go to camp this summer in Europe.

Operation Purple Camp in Bavaria and Operation Purple Camp Italia in Camp Darby, Italy, will provide middle and high school students with a week-long and all-expense-paid camp incorporating activities specifically related to coping with deployments.

Each camp features team building, recreational and leisure activities, creative art projects, a motivational speaker, forums for emotional awareness and self-expression, and more. Operation Purple Camp Bavaria is designed to strengthen resiliency and coping skills through

healthy social relationships.

Operation Purple Camp Italia is for middle school youths (grades six to eight), hosting one session on July 17-23 and another session July 24-30 both at Camp Darby, Italy. Operation Purple Camp Bavaria is for high school youths (grades nine to 12) with one session Aug. 21-27 and another Aug. 28 to Sept. 3, both in Garmisch.

Applications are available at local youth centers and Army Community Service. They must be submitted by May 15 to USA IMA-E/ATTN: IMEU-MWD-C, Unit 29353, Box 200, APO

AE 09014; or emailed to purple@ima-e.army.mil, or faxed to mil 370-8491, civ (06221) 57-8491.

School-Age Services summer camp

Families registered at School-Age Services can sign up through May 13 for summer camp, scheduled for June 20 through Aug. 19 at Wetzel SAS. All other families may register May 16.

Iron Stork delivers baby shower extravaganza

By LeAnne MacAllister

222nd Base Support Battalion
Public Affairs Office

The term “baby boom” doesn’t do Baumholder justice. In a community comprised of roughly 13,000 people, nearly 400 families are expecting a visit from the Iron Stork in the next few months.

The upcoming season is more accurately described as a baby explosion.

To welcome the momentous occasions, Army Community Service and the Baumholder Community Spouses Club hosted a baby shower for hundreds of expecting families at the Rheinlander Convention

Center April 25.

Known as Operation Iron Stork, the shower was a combination of an information expo and a party, created to prepare the community for its new 350-400 members, partially attributed to the return of 5,000 Soldiers of the 1st Armored Division from Iraq slightly over nine months ago.

“The community really turned out to support us and to support each other,” said Jean-Marie Williams, Operation Iron Stork coordinator.

At check-in, each family received a baby bag. As they entered into the transformed pink and blue ballroom of the Rheinlander, members of the BCSC pinned a corsage onto each expecting Mom.

The Health Clinic, Landstuhl Regional Medical Center, legal assistance, finance office, Women Infants and Children-Overseas, 90th Personnel Support Battalion, Provost Marshal’s Office, Child and Youth Services, Army Community Service, American Red Cross, Army and Air Force Exchange Service, Commissary, Morale Welfare and Recreation, and other agencies were represented.

Nearly every table offered free gifts and baby shower games in conjunction with their valuable information.



Photo by Ignacio “Iggy” Rubalcava
A guest at Operation Iron Stork tries to load cotton balls onto a plate while blindfolded.



Photo by LeAnne MacAllister

2nd Lt. Chyanne Jones, a registered nurse at Landstuhl Regional Medical Facility and 1-6th Infantry family member, tries to guess what kind of chocolate is in the diaper at the Baby Poop Game stand.



Photo by LeAnne MacAllister

Liz Larsen does the corsage honors for Allison Payment, an expecting mother, as she arrives at Operation Iron Stork.

Participants smelled “chocolate-poop” in diapers and identified the mystery melted candy by its scent at one table, and taste-tested baby foods to guess the flavor in question at another information stand.

Of course, prizes and giveaways were a part of the fun.

Hundreds of donations were gathered — from cribs, car seats and strollers, to gift certificates and a washer-dryer set. Every expecting family walked away weighed down with goodies offered at every table.

In addition to walking away with burping cloths and diaper bags, expecting families left with the knowledge of how to care for their babies using the support of represented agencies. Passport information, educational class offerings, post registration and other questions about how to prepare newborns for the Army were given thorough answers.

“I just love this,” said expecting mom Teresa Colvin, whose husband was deployed with the 1st Battalion, 94th

Field Artillery. “The ladies of the Baumholder community really needed something like this.”

“We’ve been in the Army 10 years now, and our first-born was a part of a previous boom. We knew there was going to be another one here,” said Dannielle Lesan, who is expecting her second child. “The great thing about this time is that the community, the health clinic and agencies are ready for us. This event is very comforting.”

The Baumholder Health Clinic staff said they realized they were going to need support in caring for the large number of pregnancies. “We’ve reached out to the local hospitals on the economy. We’re getting the information out at this shower — our expecting families have options and support,” said Lt. Col. Jeffrey Lawson, commander of the Baumholder Health Clinic.

“Usually the clinic receives one or two new pregnancies per month. After the 1st AD return in July, we received an average of 40 new

pregnancies each month. Now we’re reaching their due dates,” said Lt. Col. Michael Money, chief of nursing at the Baumholder Health Clinic. Doing the math, by the end of the year the community expects nearly 400 newborns.

Brig. Gen. Michael Tucker, 1st Armored Division assistant division commander for maneuver, addressed the participants, marking the magnitude of this event and stressing the significance of the celebration of life within the community.

Deanie Dempsey, wife of Maj. Gen. Martin Dempsey, 1st AD commander, also attended the shower to show the divisional leadership’s support.

Army brat certificates were the final stop as soon-to-be new members of the Baumholder community were officially welcomed to the Baumholder military family.

All in all, expecting families got to have their cake and eat it too at Operation Iron Stork — albeit one was made of diapers.

Scouts celebrate Earth Day, seek coveted award

By Ignacio “Iggy”
Rubalcava

222nd Base Support Battalion
Public Affairs Office

The Girl Scouts of Junior Troop 14 really dig the earth. They recently added a tree planting in recognition of Earth Day to the long list of accomplishments they hope will lead to the coveted Bronze Award, the highest award Girls Scouts their age group are eligible to receive.

The five girls from Junior Troop 14, Michaela Beaulieu, Selena Moore, Samantha Odum, Josephine Ronzey and Hannah Vieira, gathered outside the Girl Scout Hut April 22, selected a site for the tree and then leaned into their shovels.

They had some assistance from Heinz Baumann and Manfred Baker, members of the 222nd Base Support Battalion Directorate of Public Works. The tree they planted, a pear tree worth about €120, was donated to the Girl Scouts by DPW.

“They found the tree for us, donated it and helped us plant it. We tried to pay for the tree, but they insisted on donating it to our troop,” said Shanna Persin, troop leader.

The girls’ quest for the pres-



Photo by Shanna Persin

Girl Scouts Hannah Vieira (left) and Michaela Beaulieu team up to dig a hole for the pear tree that Junior Troop 14 planted to commemorate Earth Day. The other scouts who worked on the project are Selena Moore, Josephine Ronzey and Samantha Odum.

tigious Bronze Award began about nine months ago, at the start of the Girl Scout season. “In Girl Scouts, just as in Boy Scouts, there are prestigious

awards that girls may earn.

“My girls decided early on that we would work all year for our Bronze Award — the highest, most distinguished award

they may earn at this age level,” said Persin.

The girls are all between 9 and 11 years of age, and planting a tree is just one of the tasks they must accomplish as they continue their efforts to earn the Bronze Award.

The girls are now facing their next challenge, a service project with numerous requirements. “We decided we would travel to an American war cemetery and help clean the tombstones for Memorial Day and honor the veterans.

“We did a little fact finding and found one about two hours from Baumholder, in St. Mihiel France,” said Persin.

More than 4,153 Soldiers are buried there. “On Memorial Day we will head to France to honor every single one.

“We will be cleaning each stone, placing flowers and also flags,” said Persin. The girls of Junior Troop 14 were chosen out of 232 youths to take on this project.

For nine months the girls have worked at a feverish pace to get where they are today. Persin listed some of the numerous projects the girls have accomplished.

“They have made hundreds of gifts for Soldiers at Landstuhl

and handed out cards, letters and gifts they made for Soldiers at Thanksgiving, also at Landstuhl,” said Persin.

“We were hosting the Soldiers that were to come down for Christmas. They have also sold Girl Scout cookies, calendars and books to raise money for their trip,” said Persin. During the deployment of Baumholder’s Soldiers in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, the girls busied themselves by writing letters and cards to Soldiers and mailing care packages to them. They also donated cookies for deployed Soldiers.

Christmas was an exceptionally busy season for the girls. “The girls spent Christmas with wounded Soldiers at Landstuhl and supplied yet again, more goodies (all homemade), cards and letters to the Soldiers and sang carols,” said Persin.

The list of accomplishments by Junior Troop 14 goes on. They’ve walked in parades, picked up trash in the community, cleaned buildings, written letters to Congress and state representatives.

“We were even told we will receive presidential recognition for all our hard work, but today, we planted a tree to honor the earth,” said Persin.

Putting the ‘fun’ in fund-raiser

Annual Buccaneer Night serves up good times

By LeAnne MacAllister
222nd Base Support Battalion
Public Affairs Office

The auction paddles were up all night for extravagant offerings at stake at Buccaneer Night, Baumholder High School’s annual college-bound students’ fund-raiser.

Of course serious auction-goers had another thought in mind other than “where will this quilt go in the house?” — the thought of helping send Baumholder seniors to college.

Rides, food, games, raffles, entertainment and even horses were on hand at the Rheinlander for family fun. An open invitation was extended to the community for the April 29 event, and every dollar

raised, every hot dog consumed, went toward the senior fund for scholarships.

“I think the planning went really well. We had a lot of donations from the community and everything came together — from baked sale goods, white elephant donations, to unit baskets,” said event coordinator and senior parent, Wendy Rivera. “It’s amazing what people will do to help the community here. Senior parents have been a big help, too.”

The Buccaneer Night committee counted on large donations for the evening’s high-light.

Family Readiness Groups, spouses’ organizations and school groups worked together

to provide elaborate themed “baskets” for the auction. A variety of basket goods included elliptical bikes, baby cribs, chests, handmade quilts, massage gift certificates, dinner for eight and a fully stocked bar, including the actual bar. Baskets went for as much as \$850.

“Buccaneer Night is going to pave the way for me to go to college. It’s the help I need. I’m glad people came out to support us,” said senior Partrick Michaud, who plans to attend the University of North Carolina in the fall.

Diane Ohman, deputy director of the Department of Defense Dependents Schools – Europe, was on hand to support the Buccaneers. “This is an abso-

lutely perfect day for the kids,” she said. “What community support. I don’t think this happens anywhere else in the United States Army Europe community — nothing like this. The unit support is just unparalleled.”

“The seniors run the show,” said Baumholder High School Principal Dom Calabria. “Every year seniors and parents come together to find ways to improve on last year’s event, and I believe this year is as good or better than all the others.”

This year’s scholarship fund will benefit 17 seniors who have applied for college assistance.

English teacher and senior class adviser Joy Magowan has been working at Baumholder High School since the first Buc-

caner Night in 1991. “This is my 13th time supporting the event. Even though it continues to grow, the concept behind it has not changed — the community works together to build a future for everyone who is heading off to college,” she said.

Despite the majority of Soldiers deployed for training, between one and two thousand Baumholder residents turned out for the occasion. “We have the ultimate school partnership here with both other schools in the community and the units,” said Calabria.

About \$20,000 was raised at Buccaneer Night. That is \$20,000 less that Army families will have to pay to send kids to college.